

MINUTES OF THE CITY OF BURLINGTON
CITY COUNCIL WORK SESSION
March 1, 2010

The City Council of the City of Burlington held a regularly scheduled work session at the John Robert Kernodle Senior Activity Center, 1535 South Mebane Street, Burlington, N.C., on March 1, 2010, at 7 p.m.

Councilmembers present: Mayor Wall, Mayor Pro Tem Huffman, Councilmembers Jim Butler, Celo Faucette and Stephen M. Ross

Councilmembers absent: None

Harold Owen, City Manager, present

Robert M. Ward, City Attorney, present

Jondeen D. Terry, City Clerk, present

Other Staff Present: David Beal, Rodger Burden, Bob Harkrader, Linda Hollifield, Frank Hope, Nolan Kirkman, Bob Patterson, Peggy Reece, and John Nixon

Others Present: Patrick Harmon and Kurt Neufang, Dennis Williams McKinney, Richard Parker and several other citizens.

Media Present: Michael Abernethy, Times-News

A) Alamance County Public Transportation Implementation Plan

Patrick Harmon, Hayden-Harmon Foundation, pointed out that operating a bus system was complex business and that there were lots of different ways of funding it. He introduced Kurt Neufang, URS Corporation, who was under contract with the Hayden-Harmon Foundation to prepare an implementation plan.

Mr. Neufang reviewed the Burlington-Alamance County Transportation Implementation Plan as follows:

Study Initiatives

Review former transit feasibility studies.
Identify specific trip generator locations.
Prioritize the phases necessary to implement a transit service.

Review local transit needs, connectivity issues and necessary funding.

Meet with local stakeholders to gather input.

Process Elements

Develop System Goals.

Governance Structure Analysis.

Transit Service Plan.

Cash Flow Analysis.

Final Report.

Updates to the Preliminary Service Plan

Incorporation of park-and-ride locations, feeder routes and ACTA general public demand response services into proposed routes;

Formal identification of service locations:

Alamance Crossing, Elon University, LabCorp, Alamance Regional Medical Center, Alamance Community College and the Mebane Wal-Mart.

Identification of PART as the provider with the intent to contract for transit service operations.

Utilization of bio-diesel buses since the fuel is available through the Burlington-Alamance school system and it will minimize the emissions of the fleet.

Priority 1: Develop Phased Approach

Park-and-Ride lots in three strategic locations:

Western Alamance County (near ARMC).

Hwy 87 corridor (in Graham/access to Hwy 54.

Eastern Alamance County (near the Wal-Mart in Mebane)

Connectivity to Triangle Transit.

Priority 2: Integrate Local System into Regional Service

Feeder service provided to and from park-and-ride lots.

Targeted access to retail locations, medical facilities, educational sites and major employers.

Priority 3: Identify Equitable Funding Program

Need to have a dedicated local funding source.

Joint cooperation for funding the service between the municipalities and Alamance County.

Implementation Schedule

Phase 1 - Establish a regional bus service with connections to Greensboro and Chapel Hill/Durham.

Phase 1B - Implement feeder routes.

Phase 2 - Implement local bus service.

Funding Support

Utilization of PART expedites the implementation of Phase 1.

5307 funds must be spent in Burlington Urbanized Area.

\$5 VRF would create a surplus for future start-up costs and capital funding match.

Future Challenges

Public Perception of the Benefits of Transit.

Private Sector Support.

Funding.

Governance.

Regulatory Requirements.

Councilmember Butler said that there was close to two years of funding for 5307.

Planning and Economic Development Director Bob Harkrader said that the City had committed stimulus money to Piedmont Authority for Regional Transportation (PART). Mr. Harkrader said that PART had made it clear that without some match it would have a hard time using the money. Mr. Harkrader said that funds had not been committed for the fiscal years 2010 and 2011.

B) Google Fiber for Communities Application Update

Information Technology Director Rodger Burden said Google was looking for cities with a population between 50,000 and 500,000 with high-tech jobs that have major health care and medical research to apply for this project. The selected city would have extremely high-speed internet but would be an island by itself. He explained that Google was looking for a lot of support from the community such as surveys, public hearings, meetings, etc. He said the deadline for the application was in three weeks. Mr. Burden asked for direction from Council.

Administrative Services/Revenue Collections Director Frank Hope added that an agreement with Duke Power would be required.

Mayor Wall explained that the research done by Mr. Burden was as a result of an inquiry from a citizen.

City Manager Owen said the results may sound wonderful but that it was not practical for Burlington at this time. He mentioned that the City's right-of-way is very limited and that there was limited space to run power under the ground.

The consensus was that the application should not be pursued by the City.

Mayor Wall asked Mr. Burden to respond to the citizen, and Mr. Burden said he would write a letter.

C) Voluntary Annexations

Planning and Economic Development Director Harkrader talked with Council about the possibility of moving forward with the annexation of Auburn Springs/Trace on the south side of Crouse Lane. He said that it would be a contiguous, voluntary annexation by petition.

The consensus was to schedule a public hearing.

D) Proposed Demolition Ordinances

Assistant Director of Planning Services David Beal gave a brief update of 2009 code enforcement cases. He stated that out of the 51 cases reported in 2009, 10 houses were demolished, 4 by the owner and 6 by the City. He said the average cost of the demolitions was between \$2,000 and \$5,000. He reported that 12 houses were improved to livable conditions and removed from the demolition status. He said there were 6 cases going before the Housing Commission at its meeting on March 23, 2010, and that two were likely to be repaired.

Mr. Beal reviewed the history of the properties located at 1231 Westmoreland Drive and 2133 Wiggins Street. He stated that the Housing Commission had issued orders for demolition. He asked Council to adopt the demolition ordinances at its March 2, 2010, meeting. He noted that both properties were appraised for land value only.

The consensus was to place the demolitions on the March 2, 2010, City Council agenda.

E) Committee Reports

Councilmember Butler - ACTA working on budget.

Mayor Pro Tem Huffman and Councilmember Butler attended the TAC meeting. Michael Fox, the new Division 7 board member was in attendance. There was a presentation from the state.

Mayor Wall - PART reviewed goals and objectives for 2010.
Piedmont Triad Council of Governments (PTCOG)
focused on the selection of a new Executive Director
to replace Randy Billings.

Mayors' Committee for Persons with Disabilities
discussed 2010 projects.

F) Questions Concerning City Council Agenda

There were no questions concerning the agenda.

G) City Manager Comments

City Manager Owen said he had received two calls from farmers asking about cows drinking from streams.

Mr. Owen said the grand opening of the spay/neuter clinic will be on Saturday, March 27, 2010. He asked Council to review rates for services and to be prepared to vote on them at the March 2, 2010, meeting.

REQUEST FOR CLOSED SESSION

City Attorney Bob Ward requested a closed session in accordance with G.S. Section 143-318.11(a)(3) and (c) to consult with attorney in connection with the lawsuit: Trey A. Bowden v. City of Burlington, Wendy P. Jordan and Jeremy Paul (10-CvS-444).

Upon motion by Mayor Pro Tem Huffman, seconded by Councilmember Butler, it was resolved unanimously to enter into closed session.

CLOSED SESSION WAS HELD.

RETURN TO OPEN SESSION.

ADJOURN

Upon motion by Councilmember Butler, seconded by Councilmember Ross, it was resolved unanimously to adjourn.

Jondeen D. Terry
City Clerk